

Public elementary and secondary expenditures per student

Public elementary and secondary spending can be divided into three main functional areas: instruction, support services, and capital outlay. How school districts spend the funds they receive is influenced by many factors, such as the overall level of funding; the organizational structure of district- and state-level goals, the differences in student needs (e.g., demand for special education services and programs for limited-English-proficient students); and the relative cost of educational resources (e.g., teacher salaries, building maintenance, and construction costs for new schools). The distribution of expenditures across functional areas is an indication of how different public school systems allocate funds to meet their specific needs.

- In the 1994–95 school year, public schools spent \$7,163 per pupil (in 1997 constant dollars). Of that amount, more than half (\$3,865) was spent on instruction, which includes teacher salaries and benefits, supplies, and purchased instructional services.
- Between the 1989–90 and 1994–95 school years, the percentage of total expenditures per pupil that public schools spent on instruction and capital outlay increased slightly, while the percentage spent on support services decreased.
- In the 1993–94 school year, relatively high wealth school districts (those with a median household income of \$35,000 or more) spent more per pupil than school districts with less wealth. The distribution of expenditures across functional areas was similar regardless of the wealth of the school district (see supplemental table 53-1).

Public school expenditures per pupil (in 1997 constant dollars) and percentage distribution, by function: School years 1989–90 to 1994–95

School year	Total	Instruc- tion	Support services	Capital outlay	Other	Percentage distribution				
						Total	Instruc- tion	Support services	Capital outlay	Other
1989–90	\$6,381	\$3,405	\$2,240	\$533	\$203	100.0	53.4	35.1	8.4	3.2
1990–91	6,494	3,460	2,259	560	216	100.0	53.3	34.8	8.6	3.3
1991–92	6,493	3,461	2,229	546	257	100.0	53.3	34.3	8.4	4.0
1992–93	6,690	3,570	2,274	586	260	100.0	53.4	34.0	8.8	3.9
1993–94	6,913	3,690	2,343	619	261	100.0	53.4	33.9	9.0	3.8
1994–95	7,163	3,865	2,396	628	274	100.0	54.0	33.5	8.8	3.8

NOTE: Percentages are revised from previously published figures. The number of pupils for a given school year includes those students enrolled in school as of October 1 of that school year.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data surveys.

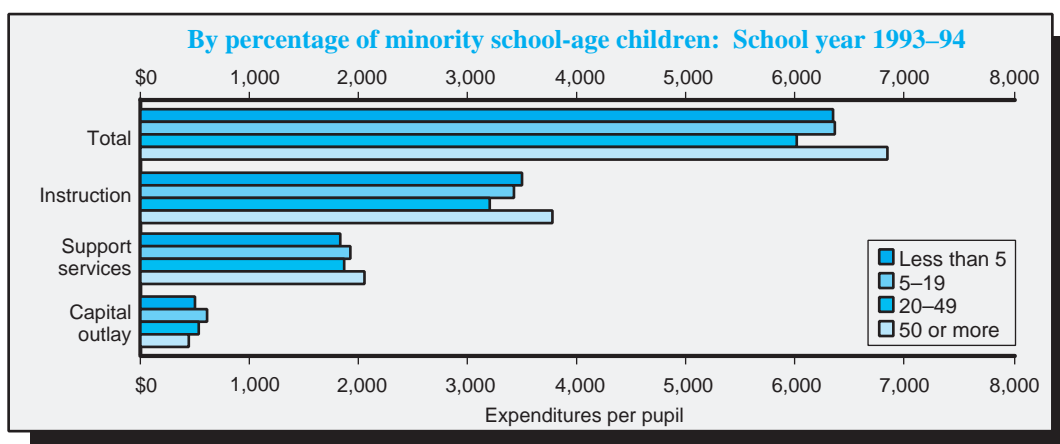
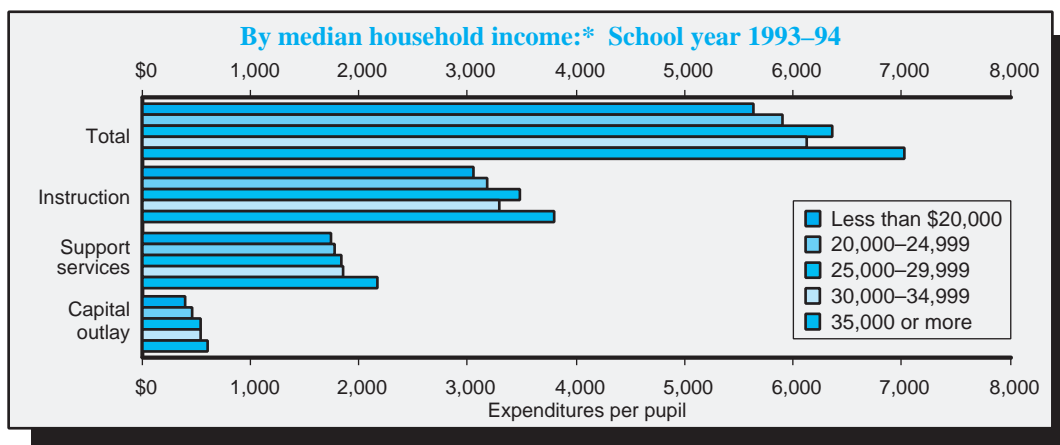
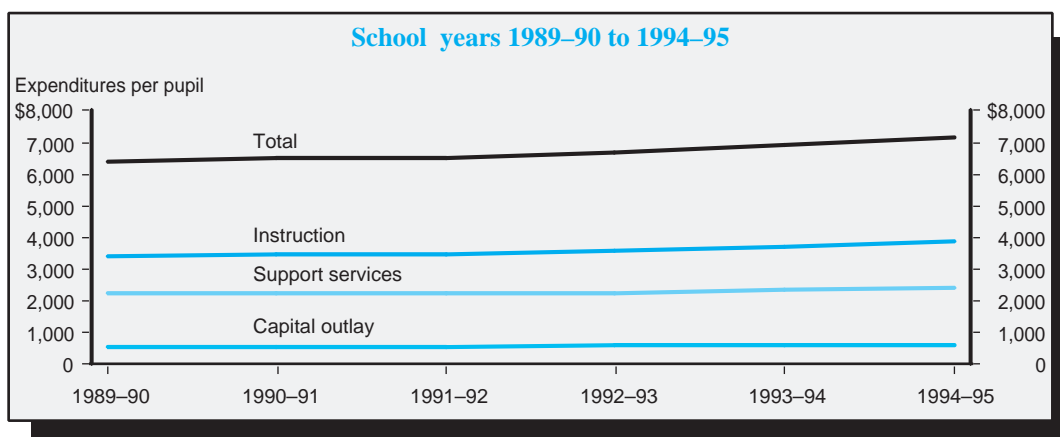
Public school expenditures per pupil (in 1997 constant dollars), by function and selected district characteristics: School year 1993–94

Selected district characteristics	Total	Instruction	Support services	Capital outlay	Other
Median household income					
Less than \$20,000	\$5,634	\$3,052	\$1,745	\$407	\$430
20,000–24,999	5,899	3,190	1,772	470	466
25,000–29,999	6,361	3,480	1,849	551	482
30,000–34,999	6,124	3,292	1,851	545	436
35,000 or more	7,027	3,806	2,174	606	441
Percentage of minority school-age children					
Less than 5	6,347	3,492	1,838	509	508
5–19	6,362	3,426	1,923	620	393
20–49	6,018	3,204	1,878	536	400
50 or more	6,847	3,779	2,054	448	565

NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. The categories for median household income are based on 1990 Census data and are adjusted to 1993–94 constant dollars. See the glossary for definitions of specific expenditure functions. The number of pupils for a given school year includes those students enrolled in school as of October 1 of that school year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to adjust expenditures to 1997 constant dollars.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, "School District Fiscal Data," 1993–94. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "1990 Census School District Special Tabulations."

Public school expenditures per pupil (in constant 1997 dollars), by function



* The categories for median household income are based on 1990 Census data and are adjusted to 1993–94 constant dollars.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, "School District Fiscal Data," 1993–94. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "1990 Census School District Special Tabulations."

Table 53-1 **Percentage distribution of public school expenditures, by function and selected district characteristics: School year 1993–94**

Selected district characteristics	Percentage distribution	Total	Instruction	Support services	Capital outlay	Other
Median household income						
Less than \$20,000	17.9	100.0	54.2	31.0	7.2	7.6
20,000–24,999	26.0	100.0	54.1	30.0	8.0	7.9
25,000–29,999	19.4	100.0	54.7	29.1	8.7	7.6
30,000–34,999	11.8	100.0	53.7	30.2	8.9	7.1
35,000 or more	24.9	100.0	54.2	30.9	8.6	6.3
Percentage of school-age children in poverty						
0–5	15.3	100.0	54.5	31.2	8.0	6.3
6–20	53.6	100.0	53.8	29.9	9.4	6.8
21–40	25.7	100.0	54.8	29.8	7.4	8.0
41 or more	5.4	100.0	53.4	32.6	6.5	7.5
Percentage of limited-English-proficient school-age children						
None	40.9	100.0	54.2	29.1	7.6	9.1
1–4	55.4	100.0	54.0	30.6	8.6	6.8
5 or more	3.7	100.0	55.4	28.4	8.3	7.9
Percentage of minority school-age children						
Less than 5	61.6	100.0	55.0	29.0	8.0	8.0
5–19	21.1	100.0	53.8	30.2	9.8	6.2
20–49	12.3	100.0	53.2	31.2	8.9	6.7
50 or more	5.0	100.0	55.2	30.0	6.5	8.3

NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. The categories for median household income are based on 1990 Census data and are adjusted to 1993–94 constant dollars. See the glossary for definitions of specific expenditure functions. The number of pupils for a given school year includes those students enrolled in school as of October 1 of that school year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to adjust expenditures to 1997 constant dollars.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, "School District Fiscal Data," 1993–94. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "1990 Census School District Special Tabulations."